

5. Mitigation Strategies for Goal Implementation

The wildfire mitigation action items provide direction on specific activities that organizations and residents in Franklin County can undertake to reduce risk and prevent loss from wildfire events. Each action item for the stated goal is followed by ideas to be used by local entities to pursue strategies for implementation. The recommended lead organization(s) is in bold type.

Goal 1: Develop County Fire-Emergency Mobilization Plan and County/Interagency Communications Plan with landowners and cooperators in Franklin County and develop subdivision/homeowners wildfire and other emergency operations plan(s) as requested.

Action Item

- A. Develop escape routes for the Maple Creek, Cub River (including Willow Flats & Scout Camp), Cotton Wood Creek, Oneida Narrows, Oxford, and Dayton areas.

Strategies

- Conduct public meetings with homeowner associations, groups and private homeowners to develop community-based evacuation plans and procedures for selected, isolated neighborhoods, communities or developments, specifically starting with the Cub River Development Area.
- Establish a system of identifying designated escape routes from subdivisions and neighborhoods through use of signs or route markers.
- Initiate public information campaign, through use of mailers, public service announcements, and public meetings to educate residents about escape routes and evacuation planning.
- Street name signs that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **Franklin County Emergency Services**
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- FCFD
- Bureau of Land Management

Target Date: Winter 2004/2005

*Costs: No hard dollar costs for public meetings.
Estimate approximately \$2,000 for public education activities, signs.*

Goal 2: Develop changes to the Franklin County Subdivision Ordinance and Building Code ordinance to address fire protection and prevention for new developments and construction. Utilizing standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition.

Action Item

- A. Develop Franklin County Ordinances to modify the existing Subdivision Ordinance and Building permit Ordinance to provide for Fire Protection as identified in NFPA 1144, 2002 edition. Street name signs that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.
- B. Work with the County Planning & Zoning Commission for approval of the ordinance changes.
- C. Work with the County Commissioners for approval of the ordinance changes.

Strategies

- Develop ordinances that state: New subdivision plats must be approved by the Franklin County Fire District prior to approval by the County Commissioners
- Develop ordinances that state: New home construction plans in the High Risk and Moderate Risk Areas as identified, must be approved by the Franklin County Fire Marshall prior to issuance.
- Develop an ordinance that establishes a fee schedule for the reimbursement of the Franklin County Fire Marshall's time.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Planning & Zoning Commission
- Franklin County Commissioners
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

Target Date: FY 2005

*Costs: Estimate approximately \$6,000 in Consultant's time.
Estimate approximately \$1,000 for two public hearings.
No hard dollar costs for public meetings.*

Goal 3: Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Franklin County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption.

Action Item

- A. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) potential water sources available at farms and homes in the County. Include potential water drafting sites. Annually update the information and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.

Strategies

- Budget for and Purchase the necessary hardware and software
- Organize volunteers to collect the data annually

Coordinating Organizations:

- **Franklin County Emergency Services**
- Franklin County Planning & Zoning Commission
- Franklin County Commissioners
- FCFD
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

Target Date: Annually by May or June

*Costs: Two GPS units with moving map (purchased separately) and computer cable for upload/download (garmin etrex legend type): \$800 (@\$400 ea)
No hard dollar costs for volunteer time.*

- B. Purchase and strategically locate four (4) mobile emergency power generators to power local water sources in the event of power loss.

- *Purchase equipment as required*

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

Target Date: Summer 2005

Costs: (4) 15,000 Watt generators: \$10,000 (@ \$2,500.00 ea.)

C. Locate and place "Dry Hydrants" along strategic creeks in the Cub River and Maple Creek and Mink Creek areas where domestic water sources are not available.

- Locate "Dry Hydrant Locations
- Negotiate with land owner for access as required
- Budget for and install "Dry Hydrants".

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

Target Date: 2005

Costs: \$20,000 each

D. Power transmission companies to provide fire protect around their wood poles.

1. Coordinate with power transmission companies to provide this protection

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USFDA-Forest service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

Target Date: Winter 2004/2005

Costs: No Hard Costs.

Goal 4: Provide Franklin County Fire District with facility improvements and equipment as identified and improve coverage in areas where facilities and equipment are currently lacking.

Action Items

- A. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Franklin.
- B. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response near the City of Dayton.
- C. Locate scattered satellite buildings, with equipment caches, to provide quicker response in Northern Franklin County.
- D. Investigate a joint venture with Caribou County for a fire station in the Thatcher Area

Strategies

- Acquire the Land for each station.
- Construct each satellite station.
- Equip each station with a type 1 structure engine, type 6 brush truck, tanker and EMT unit.
- Volunteers will be needed to staff this unit.
- Develop a list of residents that would be interested in helping set up a volunteer program in their respective areas.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Franklin City/Maple Creek Home Owners
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

Target Date: Spring 2007

*Costs: Each New Station (Office and class room included): 4500 Sq.Ft. @
\$31/sq.ft.= \$139,500
\$350,000 Equipment
No hard dollar costs for land
No hard dollar costs for volunteer recruitment.*

Goal 5: Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas on a countywide scale.

Action Item

- A. A specific hazardous fuels assessment, with specific recommendations for mitigation measures, must be conducted in the Franklin County areas described below. Each area identified will have to be assessed by (Landowners, consultants, or Agency Representatives), who are familiar with the area, who can recognize and prioritize the risks, and suggest the correct mitigation required. The type of fuels manipulation that can be incorporated into the areas described might include prescribed fire, thinning and liming, slash piling and burning, chipping, mowing, disking, or spraying depending on the type of fuel.

Strategies

- Add a mile or topography divide along entire National Forest boundary for current and future growth identified as areas that are in need of fuels treatment.
- Seek Federal and State grants to fund the fuels assessment.
- Seek grants, or work cooperatively with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and utility companies to conduct the necessary fuels reduction activities.
- The following is a list of areas within Franklin County that have been identified as being at risk from a wildfire due to hazardous fuels:
 - ❑ **Maple Creek.** From Franklin City to the forest boundary. Hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
 - ❑ **Cub River Road.** From Highway 91 to Willow Flat Campgrounds including the Scout Camp, identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
 - ❑ **Oneida Narrows Area.** Along Hwy 36 from Riverdale to Mink Creek. Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
 - ❑ **Cottonwood Creek Area.** Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
 - ❑ **Oxford Area. West and East of Westside Highway (D1),** Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.
 - ❑ **Dayton Area. West of Westside Highway (D1),** Identify specific homes and structures at moderate or high risk and promote defensible space

through public education. A hazardous fuels assessment should be conducted in this area of scattered residences.

- ❑ **Union Pacific RR Lines:** From the Utah border to the Bannock County Line, work with the railroad to promote wildfire hazardous fuels reduction program along the railroad tracks. Assess other railroad property areas of concern regarding hazardous fuels.
- ❑ **Power Lines throughout Franklin County:** Throughout the county, there is a potential for a wildfire ignition related to power lines. An assessment of specific hazardous fuels within the power line corridors must be completed, identifying the areas of greatest risk. Work with the power company to address the appropriate type of fuels reduction required for the specific area.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **USDA- Forest Service**
- **Idaho Department of Lands**
- **Bureau of Land Management**
- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Assessors Office
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Idaho Power
- Utah Power
- Union Pacific Railroad

Target Date: Annually by July or August

*Costs: No hard dollar cost for assessments
Hazard reduction costs are unknown pending the assessment
Estimated costs are \$80,000 annually*

Goal 6: Create defensible space standards for existing homeowners and developments and utilize standard Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development as identified in NFPA 1144, Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire, 2002 edition. Implementation of these standards will be by voluntary compliance and required construction standards for re-roofing structures (see Goal 2)

Action Items

- A. Implement building codes to address existing fire hazards (e.g., specifying building materials for roofs, siding, access requirements for fire fighting equipment, water supply needs, etc.)

Strategies

- With FCFD as lead, conduct an assessment of current county-adopted building and fire codes, and/or development regulations. (see goal 2)
- Present findings to the Franklin County Planning & Zoning Commission, and develop a strategy for code development and implementation.
- Conduct public meetings to determine level of interest and support from Franklin County citizens relative to code development and adoption.
- In cooperation with the Franklin County Commissioners, develop a plan for adoption and implementation of a countywide building/development upgrades.
- Street name signs that: 1) meet NFPA standards and 2) show the coordinate system.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Building Department
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

Target Date: Winter 2004/2005

Cost Estimate: Incidental costs: \$2,000
Annual Costs of \$20,000

- B. Develop and adopt revisions to the building code ordinance that requires all new roofs to be of fire retardant material as required by NFPA.
- C. Provide assistance to residents to convert or cover roofs that are highly susceptible (e.g., shake roofs and old wood siding) to wildland fires.

Strategies

- Identify existing structures that need retrofitting
- Seek grants and other funding sources for fire prevention activities.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **Franklin County Emergency Services**
- Home Owners Associations
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- FCFD

Target Date: Annually beginning spring 2006

Costs: Incidental costs: \$2,000

Goal 7: Provide Franklin County Fire District personnel with required training, communications, PPE, apparatus, facility improvements and equipment as identified.

Action Item

A. Acquire current NFPA Testing Manuals & Workbooks.

Strategies

- Seek Grants and other funding sources

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services

Target Date: Spring 2005

Costs: Comprehensive Consensus Codes © Set CD- ROM: \$500

B. Acquire a second Pumper/Tender truck for Fire Station 1

Strategies

- Seek Grants and other funding sources

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

Target Date: Spring 2007

Costs: One new BLM type engine): \$250,000

C. Improve County grant writing success

- Train an individual to serve as a County Grant Writer and develop a Grant Resource Library Specific to EMS/Fire.

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Strategies

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services

Target Date: Spring 2006

Costs: Grant Training and Resource Library: Minimal cost as most resources are available free of charge from the Federal Government (see <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ruralres/funding.htm> #GWR).

- D. Provide wildland fire training opportunities (including use of computer-based training) to FCFD and interested citizens. Coordinate with USFS/BLM for wildfire training and utilize the BLM and the Fish & Wildlife Rural Fire Assistance program.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Franklin County Emergency Services

Target Date: Spring 2006

*Costs: Wildfire Training CDs (for use on computers purchased above): \$500
Computer projector: \$2,200 Power Point Software: \$500*

Goal 8: Gain community or development participation in Firewise activities including education and information distribution.

Action Item

- A. Staff the FCFD with a part time person who would also coordinate and conduct education information training.

Strategies

- Enlist community/development participation in Firewise workshops and programs.
- Continue to host fire agency booths or events (e.g., County Fair). Implement events specific to fire prevention (i.e., Fire Prevention Day) to encourage education and cooperation. Schedule educational events at schools and communities prior to and during fire season.
- Use Countywide coordinated cooperative effort with homeowners, FCFD Fire Fighters, Federal and State agencies for adoption and participation in Firewise community activities.
- Through public meetings, mailers and public information campaign, promote implementation of the Firewise Community program in selected areas of the County.
- Solicit input from citizens as to interest in mitigation projects on private properties.
- Identify interested individuals in remote communities or subdivisions that would be willing to lead a grassroots Firewise campaign in their community or neighborhood.
- Pursue funding assistance through sources such as Firewise or National Fire Plan Communities at Risk program, and others to provide prevention and mitigation upgrades to properties at risk
- Solicit input from insurance industry to partner in such projects. Invite insurance company representatives to speak at public meetings to promote prevention and mitigation efforts.
- Provide training to residents in high risk areas on basic wildland firefighting techniques and procedures and basic communication protocols and language to improve interaction and coordination with BLM/FS fire crews
- Have the Cub River homeowners association participate in the Firewise community program (<http://www.firewise.org/communities/>).
- Conduct door-to-door homeowner education programs on wildland fire hazards and mitigation focused primarily on homeowners in hazard zones identified in this

plan. Involve the local civic, service, youth organizations and County or Federal fire crews.

- Involve local civic, service, youth organizations and homeowners to clear a defensible space around selected demonstration homes.
- Increase "Fire Danger" related signage and develop more fire pits for recreational use in recreation areas. Utilize local civic, service and youth organizations to post the signs and construct the pits.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- **Franklin County Commissioners**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Home Owners Associations
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Volunteer Organizations

Target Date: Annual budget appropriation

*Costs: Part Time Employee for public training: \$25,000 including benefits.
Possible share position with Franklin County.*

Incidental costs: \$2,000

Coordinator training: \$250

Coordinator Travel: \$500

Local Workshop Costs: \$500

Material Costs: \$500

Pit Material Costs: \$500 per pit

Sign Costs: \$500 Annually

Volunteer time: No hard dollar costs

Goal 9: Work with the road agencies to construct vehicle turnouts where needed and install weight limit signs on bridges

Action Item

A. Identify locations where vehicle turnouts and weight limit signs are needed

Strategies

- Work with road officials to have turnouts constructed and install weight limit signs on all bridges

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- **Franklin County Road & Bridge Department**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- USDA-Forest Service
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Bureau of Land Management

Target Date: Annually by August 2005

*Costs: Sign Costs: \$100 each
Costs of turnouts cannot be estimated until locations are identified.*

Goal 10: Develop a comprehensive inventory of homes and provide the inventory to dispatchers and FCFD in times of emergency response.

Action Item

- A. Locate (using GPS) and document (type of source and reliability) all structures in the County. Annually update the information and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.

Strategies

- Request a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, Upper Snake River District, and US Fish & Wildlife Service to purchase and implement the fire program software in the county.
- Annually update the information and provide to organizations and agencies conducting fire suppression operations in the County.
(<http://www.fireprograms.com>)

Coordinating Organizations:

- **FCFD**
- Home Owners Associations
- Franklin County Assessors Office
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- BLM
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Local Volunteer Organizations

Target Date: Annually by May or June (See Goals 1 & 2)

Costs: *Red Zone fire programs Software, Digital Camera, and PDA's & GPS:
 grants - \$5,000
 Volunteer time: No hard dollar costs*

Goal 11: Apply fuels treatment - hand, mechanical, prescribed fire or combination of treatments to reduce fuels loads on CRP land.

Action Item

- A. Develop a hazardous fuels reduction plan for perimeters of CRP fields or around buildings to create firebreaks that will reduce the potential threat from a wildfire. Elements of this plan should include:

Strategies

- Work with State and Federal government agencies to develop site-specific guidelines for grazing, mechanical treatment or burning of CRP lands that are keyed to elevation, climatic, or grass disturbance indicators (to replace broad, countywide dates and rules) and that provide for fuel load reductions or fire barrier construction on CRP land while still meeting the intent or objective of the CRP set aside.
- Work with State and Federal government agencies to accept and encourage the use grass species that are more fire resistant or produce less dry fuel than common crested wheat grass (e.g. Alfalfa and Greenar wheat grass).
- Work with State and Federal government agencies to permit placement of wildland fire barriers in very large tracts of CRP to limit total fire size.
- Develop defensible space fire barriers around single and multiple house sites, and farm/business sites surrounded by CRP lands.
- Coordinated management of CRP land with noxious weed and noxious insect control measures.

Coordinating Organizations:

- **Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)**
- **FCFD**
- Franklin County Emergency Services
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Fish & Game
- Bureau of Land Management USDA-Forest Service
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)

*Target Date: Spring 2006 for site-specific guidelines
Annually as per guidelines for fuels reduction*

Costs: No hard dollar costs